

APPROVED FEBRUARY 8, 2010

At 7:05 PM Chairman Charles Kimball called the meeting to order. Budget Committee members present were Charles Kimball, Andy Kohlhofer, Mike Nygren, Peg Pinkham, Pat Martel, Laurie Allore, Sue D'Eon, Selectmen Greta St. Germain and Recording Secretary Jeanne Nygren. Other members present were Principal Dawn Lewis, Principal John Safina, Superintendent Bill Lander, Financial Administrator Bonnie Sandstrom, School Board Member Ida Keane and resident Jodi Donahue.

A motion to amend the minutes of the January 20, 2010 Budget Committee meeting with one addition on page 3 was made by Kohlhofer. This amendment was seconded by Martel. The vote was unanimous at 8-0. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Nygren. This was seconded by Pinkham. The vote was unanimous at 8-0.

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2010 Budget Committee meeting was made by Martel. This was seconded by Allore. The vote was 7-1. D'Eon abstained her vote.

The Budget Committee continued going through the school budget to make their recommendations, giving their rationale for cutting and motions for their recommendations.

2600 OPERATION OF THE PLANT

Pinkham made note that there is a 4 percent reduction to this line. Martel said this figure is an increase of \$30,000.00 from what was recommended by the Budget Committee last year. Pinkham wanted the Committee aware of the Flynn Oil problems and the school being out \$40,000.00 and to date no resolution. Kimball said this doesn't affect this year's budget.

Sandstrom said that the salary line position has been moved from a support staff contract to an administrative contract. This is a difference of \$10,706 in benefits and also there was a change in the benefit plan for the new full time personnel. The workers compensation in this category of employee is higher according to Sandstrom as they are at a higher percentage rate pool

A motion to accept the school recommendation in Function 2600 Operation of the Plant of the bottom line figure of \$397,164.00 was made by Pinkham. This was seconded by D'Eon. The vote 6-2 with nay votes by Nygren and Martel.

There was a discussion in the teacher's retirement increase, which amounts to \$15,119.00, and this is not in the budget figures. Pinkham asked the Budget Committee to put this into the budget and if it isn't she needs to know the justification of the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee has already reviewed and adjusted all throughout this budget, and to go and revisit each function at this time couldn't be done. They agreed to take this sum out of function 2900 Benefits.

2700 TRANSPORTATION

This year the school transportation has a new contract with a North Reading company for buses used at the elementary, middle, high school, special education and out of district transportation. Principal Lewis said there one student being added into this program at a cost of \$9,000.00 more due to this placement.

Nygren asked if there was a possibility to redo some of the routes to get back to the 7 buses they had last year. Lander said the buses at the elementary level are packed. He said they could look to see if anything could be shifted around but he feels that the 2.7% was a fair amount.

A motion to recommend in 2700 Transportation the bottom line figure of \$579,760.00 was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by Pinkham. The vote was 4-4. The motion failed.

A motion to reduce function 2725 Extracurricular Transport by \$3,000.00 to \$3,000.00 was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by Martel. The vote was 5-3. The nay votes were by Pinkham, D'Eon and Nygren.

A motion to reduce function 2724 Athletic Transportation by \$2,000.00 to \$2,000.00 was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by St. Germain. The vote was 5-3. The nay votes were made by Pinkham, D'Eon, and Nygren.

A motion to recommend the bottom line figure in function 2700 Transportation of \$574,760.00 was made by Kohlhofer. There was no second on this motion.

A motion to reduce function 2722 Special Transportation by \$4,000.00 from \$239,000.00 to \$235,000.00 was made by Martel. This was seconded by Allore. The vote was 6-2. The nay votes were made by Pinkham and D'eon.

A motion to recommend the bottom line figure in function 2700 Transportation in the amount of \$574,760.00 was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by Martel. The vote was 6-2. The nay votes were made by Pinkham and D'eon.

2900 BENEFITS

A motion to accept in function 2900 \$15,119.00 was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by Pinkham. The vote was 5-3. The nay votes were made by St. Germain, Nygren, and Kimball. This figure was the reflection of the increase in the teacher's retirement that was not originally put into the presented budget rather than having to revisit each function.

A motion to approve \$10,570.001. for the bottom line school budget was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by D'eon. The vote was 4-4. The vote was a tie. The vote didn't pass. The nay votes were made by Nygren, Allore, St. Germain and Pinkham.

St. Germain asked how many paraprofessionals are they required to have. Lewis said the number of para is based on the number of hours they need to cover. St. Germain asked how many spec ed students there are. Lewis said there are 97.

Allore feels special needs in this town are very high and asked how these students are being evaluated, and Principal Dawn Lewis provided an explanation. Kohlhofer stated that the Behavioral Modification Program is supposed to be doing a wonderful job helping to take care of behavioral problems. Pinkham said this class has a higher portion with special needs and the ratio is higher. Kohlhofer thought that trying to find innovative methods that are cheaper with better results would be helpful.

A motion to reduce line function 5114 Aide Salaries by \$8,000.00 to \$300,417.00 seconded by Kohlhofer. The vote was 5-3. The nay votes were made by Nygren, D'Eon and Pinkham.

A motion to reduce function 5610 Supplies by \$7,000.00 to \$16,778.00 was made by St. Germain. This was seconded by Martel. The vote was 4-4. The nay votes were made by Nygren, Pinkham, D'Eon, and Kimball. The vote didn't pass.

A motion on bottom line school budget of \$10,562,001.00 was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by Martel. The vote was 7-1. The nay vote was made by Pinkham.

Citizen Jodi Donahue asked for permission to speak to the Budget Committee and she read a letter to the members. This letter is as follows:

Dear Budget Committee Members:

My husband and I are writing this letter to request that a 4th teacher be added to next years second grade class. We currently have a daughter in this year's first grade class.

It may seem like a frivolous request to ask that classes of about 18 students go down to classes of about 14 but it is less about the size of the classes than the high number of identified children in the first grade.

I am fortunate enough to be able to volunteer in my daughter's classroom and while I have been in there incidents have happened that are taking previous time away from the teacher being able to reach all of her students.

While sending an identified child out of district is costly and may benefit that one child adding a 4th teacher to this class would benefit the entire grade. With smaller classes the disruptions would not be as significant to the children as they would be able to be more engaged with each other and their teacher instead of waiting their turn as they are now.

The teachers would also be able to better manage these classroom situations at this early stage when the basics are being taught that are crucial to the development of both academic and social skills. We hate to think about what will happen with this class academically in years to come if attention is not given to it right away.

We realize that this is a cost issue at a time when things are being removed from the budget instead of being kept but this request is something that would benefit all of the children of an entire grade.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter,

Signed,

James and Jodi Donahue
18 Ingalls Lane
Fremont, NH. 03044

Superintendent Lander passed out the school warrants to the Budget Committee. These warrants are as follow:

To the Inhabitants of the School District in the Town of Fremont, New Hampshire, qualified to vote in District affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Laurence Pettengill Hall, Ellis School, in said District on the 13th day of March 2010, at nine o'clock in the morning to act upon the following subjects and to hear reports of agents, auditors, and committees or officers chosen and pass any vote relating thereto:

1. To see if the Fremont School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the Collective bargaining agreement reached between the Fremont School Board and the Ellis School Support Staff (AFT-Local #6223) which calls for the following increases in Salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Year	Estimated Increase
2010-2011	\$ 25,594.20
2011-2012	\$ 20,758.32

(By the Fremont Budget Committee)
(Recommended by the Fremont School Board)

2. Shall the Fremont School District, if Article 1 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address article one cost items only?
3. To see if the Fremont School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Fremont School Board and The Fremont Education Association which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels.

Year	Estimated Increase
2010-2011	\$ 19,490.08

(By the Fremont Budget Committee)
(Recommended by the Fremont School Board)

4. Shall the Fremont School District, if Article 3 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at it's option, to address article one cost items only?
5. To see if the Fremont School District will vote to raise and appropriate \$16,200 (checking number) to add an additional high school late bus route to the existing high school transportation contract.

(??Recommended by the Fremont Budget Committee)
(Recommended by the Fremont School Board)

6. To see if the Fremont School District will vote to raise and appropriate the budget committee's recommended amount of \$ for the support of schools, for the payment of

salaries for school district officials and agents, and for the payment of statutory obligations of the District. The Fremont School Board recommended \$10,856,600. This article does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles. (Majority vote required.)

	Budget Committee Recommendation	School Board Recommendation
1100	Regular Education	5,582,289.00
1200	Special Education	1,594,636.00
1270	Gifted & Talented	9,612.00
1300	Vocation Education	0.00
1400	Other Programs	62,127.00
2110	Attendance	1.00
2120	Guidance	159,428.00
2130	Health	111,893.00
2140	Psychological	128,519.00
2150	Speech & Audiology	222,389.00
2160	Physical Occupational & Vision	185,397.00
2210	Improvement of Instruction	52,991.00
2220	Educational Media	52,811.00
2225	Computer Technology	110,539.00
2310	School Board	71,609.00
2320	Office of the Superintendent	254,798.00
2330	Special Education Administration	126,032.00
2400	School Administration	377,556.00
2600	Operation of Plant	397,164.00
2700	Student Transportation	579,760.00
2900	Support Benefits	0.00
5100	Debt Service	328,000.00
3100	Food Service	160,825.00
5300	Federal Grants	288,224.00
	Total Appropriations	\$10,856,600

The Budget Committee started to go through these warrant articles. A motion was made to recommend article 1 was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by Pinkham. In the discussion Nygren he believes that the 3 steps added when this contract was ratified, he believes this would be a 3% raise for each of these steps, which comes to about \$2,000.00 in pay increases. When they get to their top step the pay raises will continue. This changes the entire structure of the paraprofessional pay grades and the public needs to realize this.

Lander said they can add language to have a clause to outline the Evergreen Clause and what it is. Lander will check with legal counselor and DRA onto this. Pinkham stated that it needs to be noted they have not had any increase for 2 years. Kohlhofer also thought that by taking insurance out of the contract this is probably a bigger cost than a step increase and he doesn't

think they could have gotten a better contract. The vote was 6-2. The nay votes were by St. Germain and Kimball.

A motion not to recommend Article 2 was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by Nygren. The vote was 8-0. The vote was unanimous approved 8-0.

A motion to recommend Article 3 was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by D'Eon. The vote was unanimous approved 2-6. The article didn't pass.

A motion to not recommend Article 4 was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by Nygren. The vote was unanimous 8-0.

A motion not to recommend Article 5 was made by Nygren. This was seconded by Martel. There was no vote to this Article because the amount on the sheet was incorrect.

A motion to recommend the budget committee grand total amount of \$10,562,001.00 was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded Nygren. The vote was 6-2. The nay votes were Pinkham and St. Germain.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Nygren. This was seconded by D'Eon. The vote was unanimous 8-0. The meeting ended at 10:00 PM.

The School District Public Hearing will be held on Monday, February 8, 2010 at 7:30 PM at Town Hall. The Budget Committee will convene at 7:00 PM on that night.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Nygren
Recording Secretary